Mercury&Citizen

Thursday, May 14, 2009

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Motor Trade in Turmoil? Newman & Reidy buck the trend





There have been some pretty alarming headlines regarding the motor trade over the last few months. Nationally and Internationally Manufacturers are on the brink of administration and filing for protection, factories have remained closed for months to try and slow the pace of production to match the lower demand from the car buying public and closer to home in Northamptonshire, several high profile Main Dealers have disappeared. Camden, Braylake, Corby Motors and Stratstone are no more. Enough to make you want to give it all up? Quite to the contrary according to Adam Newman, owner of Local independent



Newman & Reidy based in Earls Barton on the A4500 just 5 minutes out of either Northampton or Wellingborough, who says that business is booming due to they're unique blend of professional and customer focused care. Adam says "We are small enough to know all our customers personally, something you will never experience with the larger groups, we have found many previously disaffected customers enjoying our friendly and hands on approach and now come back on a regular basis and are more than happy to introduce us to family and friends'

"We have recently been inundated with calls from customers who own either, a Renault, Nissan, Saab, Suzuki, Honda or a Peugeot and it's still under the Manufacturers guarantee. The same question arises time after time, where can I get my car serviced without compromising my warranty?" Well the good news is that Newman & Reidy have always carried out servicing schedules to manufacturers standards using original equipment or genuine parts as required and many of their customers have long been enjoying Main Dealer services without the Main dealer price premium, saving themselves hundreds of pounds into the bargain! So don't worry about finding your nearest dealer who may or may not still be in business, Newman & Reidy are here and going from strength to strength and can easily cater for your every Motoring requirement from Quality Used Car & Van Sales, Car & Van Servicing, MOT's and Car & Van Hire.

Adam goes on to say "Don't risk losing your valuable warranty by making do with a quick service at some backstreet garage. We have a fully equipped 6 bay workshop with all the latest diagnostic equipment and can carry out any work from simply fitting a bulb to complete engine rebuilds. We have factory trained master technicians and MOT testers whose experience encompasses just about every make of car on the road today. Please feel free to give Newman & Reidy a ring to discuss your exact requirements, you will find all my team willing and eager to help no matter what the problem. Don't forget we have courtesy cars and we can collect and deliver your car back if required."

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Comfort without compromise

he UK flagship hotel for Europe's second biggest hotel group has had a flying start.

Louvre Hotels' 3 Star £6m Campanile Hotel, Northampton opened in mid October.

It is already enjoying very encouraging occupancy rates, with a significantly higher than average percentage of guests choosing to also breakfast and dine at the hotel.

The Campanile Hotel was designed for comfort without compromise to allow guests to relax and feel good. The bedrooms are spacious, with an ultra-contemporary design, with carefully thought out lighting, creating an intimate atmosphere at a touch.

The contemporary bedrooms have a bath or walk in shower, wall mounted LCD screen with

satellite channels and quality bedding for an excellent night's sleep. To give maximum added benefit to all guests, each room also has a desk area, a direct-dial telephone line and FREE Wi-Fi connection. All the bedrooms are priced at £49 at weekends and £59 midweek (regular special offers available, please contact the hotel direct).

General Manager at Campanile Hotel, Northampton Ashish Gupta said:

"The economic crisis has been very advantageous to us because we are offering very, very high quality and standards at a very competitive rate compared to other hotels in the area. The service we give is what people would expect from a top quality hotel in London."

A highlight of the Campanile hotel

is its contemporary restaurant featuring delicious and healthy buffets that have been inspired by 3-Michelin starred chef, Pierre Gagnaire.

Guests dining at the Campanile restaurant will experience the generous buffet of entrees and desserts together with the multicuisine la carte menu. This food offering with a selection of seasonal ingredients guarantee quality and freshness together with the variety of the daily specials. Freshly prepared salads and a collection of mini chocolate desserts offer a real treat.

The Campanile Northampton welcomes diners for breakfast from 6.30am - 9.30am (8am -10am at weekends), and the restaurant is open between noon and 10pm every day for lunch and





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Northampton & Citizen

Thursday, May 14, 2009

FREE EVERY WEEK

The past week in headlines

At-a-glance news...

Tabloid dream couple split

Mon, May 11 -Glamour model Katie Price and singer Peter Andre announced they had separated



Giant windfarm gets go-ahead Tues, May 12 – Approval was given for the world's biggest wind farm: 341 turbines, 12 miles off the UK coast



Road to

nowhere

Corby MP pays back £41,000 Weds, May 13 – Corby MP Phil Hope will pay back more than £41,000 in the latest twist in the MP expenses row



Monopoly deadline looms for landmark

TIME is running out to cast votes on which Northampton street

on which Northampton street should occupy the coveted May-fair spot on the town's very own version of Monopoly. Votes must be in by tomorrow and the makers of the board game said they had received an "over-whelming" response from a public keen to have a say on the make-up of the board of the board.

It is understood that Althorp House and The Guildhall were two early favourites to land the exclusive spot, but Sixfields - the home of Northampton Town FC -

The game's promoter, Graham Barnes, said: "We would like to thank everyone who has voted.

"We have received a flood of levelty rates give the Cobbleme."

loyalty votes since the Cobblers were relegated.

"It means the club is on course to secure a high position on the new board."

The makers of the classic game decided to release a version based on a town in the area earlier in the year. After considering both Peter-borough and Milton Keynes, Northampton was chosen because of the large number of landmarks which could be included on the

The game will see more than 30 town landmarks replacing the

traditional London streets.
Earl Spencer said: "It sounds like a fun idea and I'm pleased and proud that Althorp may be represented as one of Northamptonshire's top attractions.

Votes can be cast by email to monopoly@winningmoves.co.uk



A MULTI-MILLION pound road-building project to open up land for development in Northampton has stalled after the Highways Authority missed out on £7 million of Government funding.

Planners at Northamptonshire County Council had hoped to start work on the Sandy Lane Improvement North road between Berrywood Road, Duston, and the A428 Harlestone Road in January.

But rising costs and a change to the design meant the authority needed an extra £7.2 million in place before work could start.

A spokesman for Northamptonshire County Council said: "The current scheme for Sandy Lane Improvement North was unsuccessful in the latest round of community infrastructure funding. "Although this may bring a delay to the plans, we

are continuing to pursue this as a viable scheme and are currently investigating alternative funding opportunities.

The Sandy Lane improvement road was one of three schemes around Northampton to take the burden of traffic from new developments at Upton, Upton Lodge and Dallington Grange.

The two other projects included the Sandy Lane Relief Road and the Cross Valley Link Road between Weedon Road and Swan Valley The latter was due to be formally opened in a

ceremony today.

Mark Conway of the West Northamptonshire

Development Corporation (WNDC) said: "It's essentially what is required in terms of growth to allow

us, as a town, to be more ambitious."

Campaigners who objected to the Sandy Lane improvement road said they were "elated" with the delay, after trying to stop the scheme with a judicial review last year.

Roger Kingston, the chairman of the Northants Residents' Alliance, said: "We're pretty elated

because it vindicates this road as very ill-thoughtout and poorly-funded. We were a bit horrified it was only going to be a single carriageway road and they were building the road too close to the existing population.

'We think the concept of trying to build 45,000 houses on the side of Northampton – when we haven't got proper infrastructure and expecting the deliverers to pay for - it is bankrupt.

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The Week in Numbers

109: When Catherine Masters. of Oxfordshire, received her ninth card from the Queen – to celebrate her 109th birthday - she complained that each card was exactly the same. So the grandmother was given the surprise of her life when the Queen sent Prince William to her nursing home to offer a royal apology in person.





,400: Experts in New Zealand have discovered that skeletons found at a burial site near Nether Heyford were 1,400 years old. The skeletons were found near the site of a Roman dig at the Northamptonshire village and DNA sent off for age testing. It is thought they may be the remains of German mercenaries who could have been hired to protect an important villa on the site

50: Motoring enthusiasts have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Mini this week. The iconic British car was designed in 1959 by Sir Alec Issigonis. Now owned by BMW, it was originally manufactured by the British Motor Corporation. It had an 848cc engine and top speed of 72 mph and first went on sale for £497.





9.3billion: The Government and power providers are planning to introduce hi-tech gas and electricity meters in every household in a bid to reduce unnecessary consumption. The meters would show the user their daily usage and could be read remotely by power firms, eliminating the need for estimated bills. The plan is expected to be completed by 2020 at a cost of £9.3 billion.

National and international news SIX DAYS A WEEK in the Chronicle & Echo

£300,000 card scam

MORE than 1,000 credit and debit cards were cloned at a Northampton petrol station, netting international fraudsters at least £300,000.

Suntharam Thevaratnam, 33, turned off CCTV cameras and allowed a bug to be placed inside the Chip and PIN machine at the Shell garage on the A45 near Wootton.

The Sri Lankan-born Tamil was employed as a night shift cashier when police began investigating more than 1,000 complaints of card 'skimming'.

At Northampton Crown Court yesterday, he was jailed for three years having pleaded guilty to

Rebecca Crane, prosecuting, said: 'This case involves the skimming of credit and debit card details in the UK and substantial usage by others of at least £300,000. It may well be more."

A police investigation began in January when the petrol station's customers noticed unauthorised withdrawals from their card accounts.
Miss Crane said: "These took

place in various countries around the world; in Canada, India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

"Cards were cloned with the details having been put on a magnetic strip. Regular customers expressed their concerns to the



■ Suntharam Theyaratnam and (above) the Shell garage on the A45 near Wootton

manager, who already had his own concerns."
Police found that between Sep-

tember and December last year, the garage's CCTV cameras had been shut down on several occa-sions for up to 10 minutes a time. Thevaratnam, of Birchfield Road,

Abington, claimed to have been threatened with shooting by a man named Jaden who he had allowed in to install a bug. Miss Crane added: "The Crown

says there was absolutely no need to have let him in as employees sit behind thick glass, the doors are locked and there are two panic buttons in the kiosk."

Sentencing, Judge Peter Ross said: "You were at the start of this process which led to enormous fraud. Your position, although at one level is perhaps seen as a minor cog in the machine, was absolutely crucial."

Richard Holloway, mitigating, said Thevaratnam, who is now a British national, had not profited from the frauds.

He added: "He's certainly not the brightest man and that may be why he was persuaded."

cure breakthrough

SCIENTISTS backed by a Northampton charity have made a major breakthrough in the search for a cure for a fatal degenerative illness

The Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association, which is based in Northampton town centre, has been part-funding international studies into the condition. Scientists have identified a 'hero' gene which

improves by up to 50 per cent the survival time of motor neurone disease patients.

Experts are particularly excited about the new discovery because the genes offer an immediate target for treatment strategies and drug development for

the 5,000 sufferers in the UK.

Dr Brian Dickie, director of research development at the MND Association, said: "This is a significant finding, bearing in mind the speed with which

MND can progress in patients.

"Just as there are genetic 'villains' that can cause or predispose people to disease, so there are undoubtedly 'hero' genes that help delay the onset of disease or slow its progression.

"Undoubtedly, this research will open up potential treatment strategies for the thousands of people living with MND."



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Former MPs want change to expenses

FORMER Northampton MP and Conservative peer Lord Naseby has spoken out against MPs embroiled in the expenses scandal, saying they "should have had a conscience".

The long-serving Tory member for Northampton South, who lost his seat in 1997, described some of the claims made by both Labour and Conservative members as "bizarre" after *The Daily Telegraph* continued to expose bills for household items, food and repairs paid by the taxpayer.

Lord Naseby, formerly Michael Morris, said it could take a General Election for Parliament to recover from the damaging revelations.

Speaking to the *Chron* this week, he said: "If this thing is not put to bed quickly, the only way to solve this problem is for the Government to say, 'Parliament is too important and we've got a major financial crisis so we will have a General Election'.

"People generally are fed up and this has made the kettle boil over. It doesn't say much about the people who set up the system."



■ Lord Naseby, former Tory MP Michael Morris

Lord Naseby said MPs were given a salary, travel costs and a living allowance during his time in Government when he was chairman of the Ways and Means committee, which recommended Government budgets.

ernment budgets.

He added: "There was a living allowance that was a fixed figure and a contribution to the expenses for those MPs who lived outside the

Greater London area or who were not ministers.

"We didn't have these allowances and it's only been since 2004 that the abuse started.

"If it's within the green book then you can't prosecute people but you can change it. I think it should be an independent committee that reviews it and it would be sensible to have one senior backbencher from each of the major parties acting as an advisor."

Lord Naseby's successor, Tony Clarke, the then-Labour MP for Northampton South, said he always published his expenses annually because he "could see this day coming".

Mr Clarke, now an Independent councillor for the Castle ward on Northampton Borough Council, said: "Expenses are there to assist you in your job of work, not to help you feather your nest.

"I came across MPs who tried to convince me that I could claim for things as part of the privilege of being an MP.

"The expenses system needs simplifying and it needs to be more transparent as to what you can and can't claim."

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Sex offender sectioned for an indefinite period

A SERIAL sex offender who abused a patient with learning difficulties was able to offend again because he was unsupervised, a court

Christopher Maye, aged 40, who has mental health problems as a result of a childhood brain injury, was granted bail after he admitted sexually assaulting a 44-year-old man in Northampton.

He was released into local authority care by Judge Christopher Metcalf with a condition he was never left alone by mental health staff and given one-to-one care.

care.
But Northampton
Crown Court heard that

Maye was left alone at the residential care home in Northampton last September and took the opportunity to sexually assault a 33-yearold patient. Pearl Willis, prose-

Pearl Willis, prosecuting, said Maye was being treated in Little Billing, Northampton, in September 2007 when he forced another patient to perform a sex act upon him.

Having pleaded guilty to sexual assault, Maye was released on bail into local authority care and moved addresses so he could not come into contact with his first victim.

first victim.
Miss Willis said: "The nature of his bail conditions were that at all

times he was to have one-to-one care and not be left alone at any time. "It seems that on the

"It seems that on the evening of September 15, 2008, he did appear to be alone for a short time."

While his two carers were out of the room, another patient with learning difficulties and epilepsy was sexually attacked by Maye.

Maye, who is now a patient in a mediumsecure unit at St Andrew's Hospital in Northampton, previously pleaded guilty to two sex offences.

He was sectioned indefinitely for treatment under the Mental Heath Act 1983 on Monday and can only ever be released with the Home Secretary's

permission.
Judge Metcalf, who
also banned Maye from
contacting his victims
indefinitely, said: "You
know the problems that
you face. You have a
history of sexual
offences going back to
1988.
"It's clear that when

"It's clear that when you were a small child, you suffered a head injury, the effects of which continue today."

The court heard Maye was previously convicted for molesting a five-year-old child in August 1998, gross indecency in 1990 and indecent exposure in November 1993.



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Should the rules on MPs' expenses be tightened?

MPs are getting expenses when they shouldn't and the rules should definitely be tighter.











system isn't fáir. They should have to pay their way like the rest of us. Stephanie Conterno-Barton, 21, a mother of Northamp-



It's not right for MPs to claim for houses they don't live in, but I think most of them Brian Motezu, 21. customer services assistant from Kings Northampton

A survey has found cheese and pickle is the nation's favourite sandwich. Do you agree?

ploughman's is my favourite, definitely. Paul Stone, aged 21, a student from Abington, Northampton



agree. My favourite is ham salad. Matt Coring, aged 20, a student nurse from Semilong, Northampton





favourite is tuna mayo. lames Baggurey, aged 21, a student from Semilong. Northampt



I'm a vegetarian and cheese and pickle is very good. I would probably Nick Willes, 21, a musician from Northampton town centre

Your View Forest facilities work approved

PROPOSED £500,000 makeover of Salcey Forest's visitor facilities has been recommended approval by planning officials.

The Forestry Commission has applied for planning permission to flatten the cafe at the forest and build an eco-friendly building including a new cafe, a larger indoor and outdoor seating area, a retail shop and an education room.

In a report due to go before councillors on May 14, the commission claims the building will provide eco-benefits by using sustainable construction materials and techniques using timber produced at Salcey Forest, and using natural ventilation and

A bio-mass facility is also included in the plans to generate heat for the site using wet wood chip. Ashton Parish Coun-

cil has objected to the plans, saying the current facilities are good and the new building



■ The aerial walkway at Salcey Forest. Planned works will cost about £500,000

may not attract more visitors in the current economic climate.

Hartwell Parish Council, however, welcomed improvements but said the new building design is "not in keeping" with the for-

In the report, the Forestry Commission said: "The improved facilities will provide an all-weather community space to continue to service the range of environmental education and community outreach programmes.

"The Eco-Hut is not intended to increase visitor numbers further, but to improve upon the existing provision for current

The report goes on to say the Eco-Hut follows the major issues of a lack of wet weather accommodation and the original cafe's inability to cope with the current numbers of people visiting the forest.

South Northants Council has received 23 objections to the plans, with complaints including that modernising the forest will ruin its "simplicity", that the estimated 250,000 visitor numbers from the commission is exaggerated. a lack of car parking, and that the building would be an "eyesore".

The plans are available to view online at www.south northants.gov.uk.

More drivers parking legally

DRIVERS in Northamptonshire received the fewest parking tickets for a decade last year as revenue from fines dropped below £1 million.

Traffic wardens for Northampton-shire County Council, which took over parking enforcement from Northampton Borough Council in 2007, issued just under 40,000 parking tickets last year, making the authority almost £970,000.

The figures show a year-on-year drop with a 44 per cent decline since 2002-03, when motorists were hit with more than 71,000 parking tickets.

A spokeswoman for the county council said money made from fines

She said: "Effective parking enforcement is essential to reduce congestion and improve the flow of traffic on our roads as well as improving road safety and access for emergency vehi-cles. The number of tickets issued year-on-year had reduced, indicating that more drivers are parking legally, making the roads safer for all users.



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Bigges daffodi

THE "biggest ever" annual Great Daffodil Run in Northamptonshire saw hundreds of runners raising cash for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

An expansion of the event, which is now in its 12th year, saw a shopping village open up at Kelmarsh Hall for the first time and a new addition to the racing calendar with the Daffodil Dash, a 1.5km run for children and their parents.

More serious runners took part in the 10km and 15-mile races around the grounds of the hall on Sunday, with many choosing to run in memory of loved ones.

Adam Shakespeare, from

Hartwell, and four of his friends took part in the 10km race in memory of Adam's aunt Rosie. He said: "Rosie died about a month ago and we wanted to do something in her honour.

"It is something that's close to my heart and I wanted to be able to raise some money for a really good cause, which will help other people suffering from cancer.'

The group, which joined about 1,000 others in the 10km race, hoped to raise at least £600 for Marie Curie nurses.



Kate Owen, who completed the 15 mile course last year but opted to do the 10km run this time, dressed in a Superwoman outfit, said before the run: "My dear mother is a two-time cancer survivor who is now happily retired in the south of France.

"Marie Curie is a wonderful cause to support. I just hope I get round the course without being cick." being sick.

The charity's area fundraiser, Marea Roberts, said the event was one of the most important of the year for Marie Curie, with about 1,500 runners taking part in the three races.



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ACCIDENT INJURED

"I believe it is always important to investigate matters fully before a compensation figure is reached for my clients," says Jason Claridge, partner at Ward and Rider Solicitors' Personal Injury Department. "On a number of occasions I have had clients who have suffered soft tissue injuries to their neck and lower backs, which are often are referred to as 'whiplash injuries'.

"It is not uncommon for anything up to 10 per cent of individuals who suffer such injuries to have continuing problems which can affect them for the rest of their lives. Ordinarily it is not possible for an orthopaedic surgeon to know whether or not the individual will continue to suffer until around 18 months to two years after the accident.

"I recently acted for a client who was initially told she would take around 12 to 18 months to make a full recovery. She had a few days off work following an accident in which she suffered a neck injury. The defendant's insurers made a perfectly reasonable offer, based on the original medical evidence, but she continued to suffer pain as a result of her injuries. She never recovered to the levels of activity that she previously enjoyed prior to the accident.

"Unfortunately, she also found heavy household chores a problem following the accident and relied on her family, particularly her husband and children, to help her. Activities such as ironing, vacuum cleaning, making beds and shopping all caused her difficulty.

"She also used to do much of the redecoration of her home prior to this accident. However she found that due to her neck injury, hanging wallpaper and painting caused her significant pain and therefore, understandably, she did no longer continue with this task.

"I am pleased to say", says Jason Claridge, "that she did receive a sizeable settlement to represent her injury and the fact that she could not cope with housework following the accident and that it was unlikely that she would return to doing either the heavier household chores or DIY in the future. I am therefore pleased to say that she received the following:-

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Mr Claridge added: "We have a dedicated team of personal injury lawyers at Ward and Rider Solicitors who specialise in personal injury work.

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Blow to F1 hope

SILVERSTONE'S hopes of clinging on to the British Grand Prix have taken a knock after rival racetrack Donington was given an extra two months to get its bid back on course.

The Northamptonshire circuit's slim chances of holding the event after this year rest on Donington's bid to revamp its circuit falling apart.

However the local authority that covers the Leicestershire circuit has now agreed to wait until June 30 to receive all the necessary paperwork

It has sanctioned the delay because doc-uments need to be signed by both track operator Donington Ventures Leisure Ltd and the track-owning Wheatcroft family who are in dispute over unpaid rent.

With that case set to be heard on June 8, the extended deadline gives DVL and the

that the disagreement with the track owners - who have also called for DVL to forfeit its lease on Donington - will come to an $amicable\ end.$

He said: "Everyone has their spats in a

we're having our issues at the moment, but we're resolving those and you'll see some positive news relatively soon.

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5th century graves found

EXPERTS believe eight ancient skeletons found in a Northamptonshire burial ground could be German mercenaries hired by wealthy landowners to protect their property.

Samples of hones unearthed at the site at Whitehall Farm, in Nether Heyford, have been carbon dated by experts in New Zealand, who said they originated from the fifth and sixth centuries.

Volunteers and archaeologists, who have been studying the area for more than 10 years, hope this discovery could lead to a better understanding of who lived in the area after previous excavations in the village uncovered Roman bath houses and artefacts.

Nick Adams, who owns the farm, said: "It's very interesting that we have some bodies that are fifth century and we've got to try to establish who they might have been.



■ Nick Adams, who owns Whitehall Farm in Nether Heyford

"It's a little bit after the traditional end of the Roman period and we need to try to find out what the connection is

They could be Roman Britons or they may have been Germans who were brought in as mercenaries as protection for the bigger estates.

Mr Adams added the researchers believed the Saxon cemetery may have been a private family burial ground where people were buried with "grave goods" such as daggers, brooches and rings

He said the findings might also lead the archaeologists to Roman cemeteries - which were typically difficult to find – to reveal more of the site's

led by site director Stephen Young, from The University of Northampton, could include DNA testing to produce more clues about the origins of the

The estate included two roundhouses, villas and bathhouses, as well as private cemeteries for the family that lived there in the fifth and sixth cen-

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BATTERIES

Police inquiry as pupil suspended

A PRIMARY school pupil in Northampton has been suspended for bringing a cannabis-like substance into class, in what the headteacher has described as an "incredibly misguided" attempt to impress friends.

The youngster is being investigated by police after producing the substance and showing it to other pupils at Headlands Primary School, in Bushland Road.

Officers were called to the scene and

the child, who was immediately removed from school, has been told he could face being permanently excluded pending the results of their investigation.

Headteacher Andrew Lakatos said other children in the same year group as the boy had been spoken to about the dangers of drugs, and added the school was cooperating fully with the police investigation.

He said: "I can confirm that on Wednesday we were horrified to discover a pupil in possession of what is believed to be a

an incredibly misguided attempt to impress

"The police were alerted immediately and are now investigating the incident with our full support.

"The child was immediately issued with a fixed term exclusion."

Mr Lakatos added parents could be reassured drugs would not be tolerated in the school, and said: "I hope parents are reassured by our actions, which send a clear message that this incident was completely

■ Headlands Primary School has excluded the pupil

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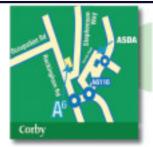
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Land 9. Down 10. Nazi 11.
Iris 12. Suds 13. Spiv 14.
WHAT YEAR 17 - 1994;
WHAT YEAR 1994;
WHAT

WHAT year is this? - 1

- 1. The USA <mark>hosted football</mark>'s World Cup
- 2. The Channel Tunnel was officially declared open
- 3. An earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale hit Los Angeles
- 4. Tony Blai<mark>r became Labour</mark> Party leader



WHAT year is this? - 2

- Missing MP John Stonehouse resurfaced in Australia
- Don Revie became England soccer manager
- 3. Giant pandas Chia-Chia and Ching-Ching arrived at London Zoo
- Richard Nixon resigned over Watergate













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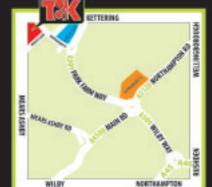
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TELEVISION Quiz

- 1. Sharon Horgan stars in the final episode of Pulling, which can be seen on BBC Three on Sunday. She stars in another highly-acclaimed comedy series alongside Anthony Head and Stephen Mangan. What's it called?
- 2. Coronation Street's Michelle, played by Kym Marsh, has more romantic problems from Monday on ITV1. She's dating Hollyoaks actor Jamie Lomas, but what character does he play?
- 3. Samantha Morton appears in *The Unloved*

- on Sunday on Channel 4. What was the name of the series written by Kay Mellor, first shown in 1995, in which she made her breakthrough?
- 4. It's the final episode of Boy Meets Girl on ITV1 next Friday (May 22). Rachael Stirling stars in the series, but who is her famous mother?
- 5. Cast your mind back...
 John Cleese and the rest of the Fawlty Towers cast celebrate the comedy's 30th anniversary on UKTV's GOLD channel on Sunday. In what year did the first series air in the UK?

WORD Spiral

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction. The last letter of each four-letter answer is the first letter of the next word. A correct grid will reveal a seven-letter key word. **CLUES:** 1. Counterfoil 2. Defeat 3. Tinned food fish 4. Afresh 5. Journey on foot 6. Pavement



edge 7. Chime 8. Solid earth 9. Soft fluffy feathers 10. Hitler supporter 11. Plant type 12. Lather 13. Black marketeer 14. Look at 15. Legal document 16. Cylinder. **Key word** clue: Foreign country

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Family escaped arsonist attack



remains of the fire which started in rubbish in a walkway in Whiteland Road, Head-

A FAMILY in Northampton had a lucky escape after arsonists started a fire next to their house in the early hours on Friday.

The Bennett family, including six-year-old Holly and Lauren, 13, was woken up at 1.30am after the fire was started among rubbish in a walkway between their house and a neighbouring house in Whiteland Road. Headlands.

Neighbours in the street called the fire brigade and woke the residents up as flames began to reach the height of the house, shattering windows and damaging doors.

Suzanne Bennett, 34, said: "I didn't hear a thing. The first I heard was one of the neighbours banging on my door and just telling us to get out.

"We were stuck at the top of the stairs thinking, 'is it going to blow in?' You just think of the worst-case scenario. If they hadn't woken us up, I dread to think what would have happened.

"Somebody has obviously thrown something over to set fire to the rubbish.

Despite smoke detectors being installed in the house, the alarm did not go off until fire crews broke down the door and smoke drifted inside.

Lauren said: "I got up and I could just see the orange reflec-tion from the flames. They were higher than the house. It didn't seem real."

The arson attack burned through telephone wires and guttering pipes as well as causing smoke damage to the house, which was being decorated.

Northamptonshire Police have appealed for anyone with information to ring 03000 111 333 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.





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Thursday, May 14, 2009





To rent in town

FEATURED here are four homes available for rent in Northampton through the agent Greatlets, on Northampton 631633.

In the block pictured above in a West Hunsbury cul-de-sac is a three-bedroom house which is available for rent for £675 per month. It has been recently refurbished and has front and rear gardens plus offroad parking for at least three

Pictured (interior) above left is a room to let close to the



Billing Road in Abington for £350 per month all inclusive and furnished. The rent is inclusive of all utility bills and wireless broadband.

Pictured above centre (interior) is a two-bedroom apartment in Kingsthorpe which is available for rent for £500 per month, furnished. It has a new fitted kitchen with appliances, lounge with two leather sofas, and new pine doors through-

Pictured right (interior) in St James is a two-bedroom fully

furnished and refurbished apartment, which was previously available for rent for £595 per month and is now available for £550 per month. It also has open plan lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom and garden with shed.





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EAST HUNSBURY

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DUSTON

£550 pcm Unfurnished two bedroom semi detached house
 Lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom

Part-Furnished two bedroom end terrace cottage

Outside there are gardens and a garage



EAST HUNSBURY

- Unfurnished two bedroom end of terrace house Lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom
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KINGSTHORPE HOLLOW

- Two bedroom second floor apart Lounge/diner, luxury kitchen and bathroom
- Reserved car parking



- £495 pcm
- Unfurnished unusually large one ground floor apartment
 Lounge/diner, kitchen with appliances, luxury bathroom
 Outside there are communal gardens and off road parking



- £475 pcm
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 - Unfurnished refurbished one bedroom first floor flat

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- Outside there are gardens and a parking bay



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- Furnished one/two bedroom ground floor apartment
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TOWN CENTRE

- Unfurnished one bedroom apartment



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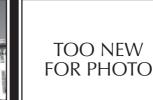
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PROPERTY

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Family Announcements

Births



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Lee & Wendy On the Birth of your Daughter

Born 10th May 2009 Lots of Love Mum Eileen, Glenn, Faye, Georgia, Owen

CURTIS-POTTER

Sophie & David

Wish to announce the safe arrival of

Evie Mai

5lb 2oz

5th May 2009

Many thanks

to all staff at

NGH Maternity

CURTIS-POTTER

Sophie & David

Congratulations to

Love Dad



Births

Births

18th Birthday



Happy 18th

Birthday

Love

Mum, Dad

and Ellie

XXX

18 ALREADY

Josh

TOMPKINS

You still have that

mischievous

mile. Happy 18th babe

All our love from

Mum, Dad,

lamie, Ellie-Rose, Lydia

21st Birthday

& Elliot xx



DUNK announce the

Kate Emily Dunk

A bunch of Cuddles for Jamie. Special thanks to Florrie & Amanda.

Trish & Keith POPIEL (Nee Jones) & DAVIES

announce the safe arrival of

Freya Ann

9 Oz. Greatful thanks to all the medical team and special thanks to Midwives Sarah, Donna, Jenny



65th Birthday

ANYTY BULTHOU **GRAHAM BRISTOW**

65 Today

Have a lovely party.

Love Tony, Lisa, Janette, Paul, Hayley, Sam, Danielle, Jem and Bec.

21st Birthday **Engagements**

本本東大京年本東

OLIVER

BROOKS

Wishing you

a very Happy 21st Birthday

May you

have health

and

happiness

always all our

love

Mum, Dad

Luke

XXX

BROWN & LODGE

Congratulations to Olivia Alice **Emily Brown** and

Alistair John Lodge

on their Engagement. Every good wish for the future. Daddv



Ruby Wedding

MARTIN

Congratulations

to our special

Julie and Brian

Lots of love from

Karen and Bryan,

Nigel and Emma

and your

Grand-children

Ben, Joe, Jamey and Elle

Wishing you both many

more happy years.

In Memoriam

12-05-08

12-05-08
No one knows the grief we feel,
When the family meet and you're not there.
We laugh, we smile,
We play the part,
But behind it all lies broken hearts.
Love Bridget,
Vinny & Family Vinny & Family

BYRNE



LUCK Clare

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesturday and days before that too.

We think of you in silence. We often speak your name, All we have are memories and your picture in a frame,

Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part, God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. Loving Husband Alfred

In Memoriam

QUIGLEY — Brian 27.05.64 - 08.05.06. Will always be in our hearts. Kathy & Kids x

QUIGLEY — Brian. 27.06.64 - 08.05.06 The pain never goes away. Love you Brov. Your Twin Michael x

TATTON JOY

13th May 2005

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Missed and loved beyond words Yvonne

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you both on the birth of my Beautiful Grandaughter Congratulaions on Evie Mai

the birth of Evie Mai Our first

Grandchild. Love Mum & Brian x x x

CURTIS-POTTER Congratulations

Sophie Curtis & David Potter on the birth of Our Niece Evie Mai Lots of love 'Aunty Nicky' & 'Uncle Damion'





Sophie and David on the safe arrival of Evie Mai Lots of love











Mark & Shirley arrival of

Born 8th March.

Are proud to

born 6th May at NGH weighing 8lbs &

Kirsty







Darren & Tess



are pleased to announce the birth of Carter & Grady

Carter & Grady
Tilson
Born on the 25th of
April weighing 6lb
110c each.
Two fantastic little
twin Brothers for
Riley and Paige.
Many thanks to all
our family and
friends for their love
and support in
helping us complete
our family.
XXX

WALLBANK

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on the birth of your

Alana

autiful Daughter

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Joe

RYAN

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21st Birthday

Lots of love Mum & Dad

40th Birthday

Sharron **PARTRIDGE**

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Love Stuart,

Laura and Ben xxx



Graham

65th Birthday

Happy Birthday Gray Enjoy your party & SURPRISE.. You have tickets for Cliff Richard & The Shadows at Wemblev in September! Lots of Love Maureen

P.S Happy Birthday Hayley

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Wedding

Golden

Margaret &

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together! Lots of love from the

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and forever in our hearts. Kieran and Sarah

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LUCK Clare

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We think of you in silence We often speak your name, your name, All we have are memories and your picture in a frame, in a frame, Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part, God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. Loving Husband Alfred

LUCK Clare

Passed away 12.05.08. Much loved.

Much loved, much missed. Always in our thoughts. With love from your Son Robert & Daughter-in-Law Pearl & all of your Grandchildren

McGARRY William

say, you're always in our thoughts Your loving family Michael, Kerri,

 $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}$



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the full application. Ine full application may be inspected at Northampton Borough Council, The Guild Hall, Northampton NN1 1DE free of charge during office hours. Any interested party or responsible authority may make written representation within 28 consecutive days of the application date. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with no application and a person may be lightle to a second may be lightle to

recklessly make a laise statement in connection with an application and a person may be liable to a fine on summary conviction of up to £5,000. Dated 5th May 2009.DFA Law LLP 2 Waterside Way Northampton NN4 7XD Ref RDJF.83727.49 Solicitor for the Applicant

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Thursday, May 14, 2009

help business

INTRODUCING congestion charges across Britain could save businesses millions of pounds, a new study

suggested today.

The CBI and Freight Transport Association said any new charges should be aimed at cutting congestion rather than simply raising extra tax

revenue.

John Cridland, deputy director general of the CBI, said: 'This research furthers our understanding of congestion charging and shows that it can benefit business, but only if it is applied intelligently. Reducing congestion isn't just about cutting pollution and improving our quality of life, it is also about improving the economy. But it must be applied in the right way if it is to benefit business and receive widespread support, otherwise it

will simply backfire."

James Hookham, FTA policy director, added: "Government reluctance to invest in suffi-cient road capacity and UK transport infrastructure means that sooner or later an alternative to managing the road network through traffic queues has got to be found. If road pricing is the answer it must be applied in the right wavs

A Department for Transport spokesperson said: "Our priority now and over the next decade is on tackling congestion where it is experienced most - in our cities and on our motorways.

A confident statement Charges could bell business from new Audi 07 4x4

CONFIDENCE is not something that's in short supply at Audi these days and if one model characterises this mushrooming self assurance, it's the Q7 luxury 4x4. Audi arrived rather late to the premium SUV party and it seemed that no sooner did it get its coat off and elbow its way to the bar, than happy hour abruptly ended.

Suddenly this class of vehicle was being frowned upon by the public for its perceived environmental profligacy and a certain overbearing attitude that seemed out of step with the

It didn't help that the Q7 was designed to be one of the biggest and most ostentatious 4x4s of the lot. On face value, the latest model isn't exactly apologetic but beneath the surface it's a friendlier proposition altogether.

Six engines are available. The entry-level petrol unit is the six cylinder 3.6 FSI, developing 276bhp.

This sits below a powerful 4.2-litre V8 petrol unit also featuring FSI direct injection which cranks out a healthy 345bhp with a peak torque figure pitched at 440Nm.

Of perhaps greater relevance to the UK market is the 236bhp 3.0-litre TDI diesel. This engine is available in standard or "Clean Diesel" guises, with the later using advanced combustion and exhaust after-treatment technologies to boost efficiency further.

Then there's the muscular 335bhp 4.2-litre V8 TDI powerplant, but the real behemoth is the V12 TDI diesel. Packing fully 493bhp and a monstrous 1000Nm of torque, the Q7 V12 TDI is a vehicle that borders on the caricature.

The figures for the Q7 V12 TDI make jaw-dropping reading. Despite weighing more than some tectonic plates, it'll

get to 60mph from

standstill in 5.2

seconds.

as quick as a Porsche 911. It will also effortlessly butt into its 155mph electronic speed limiter.

There are small aircraft carriers

that would cut a less commanding dash than the Q7 if parked on a suburban driveway and the latest facelifted models do little to tone down the shock and awe attitude of the original.

There are three rows of seats that

slide and fold in the usual MPV-like fashion. Audi claims 28 seating and loading configurations are available in the Q7 and the seats in the second row are adjustable for fore/aft movement. This allows Audi to not only lay claim to the most generous second row legroom in the class but also - with the second row slid forward and the rear folded - to also pinch first prize for luggage capacity, a huge 775 litres.

> ership that you'll have to live with on a day to day basis. The thing is huge. At over five metres long, you'll get used to driving past many

> There are downsides to Q7 own-

parking spaces looking for one you can ease its bulk into.

You'll also attract the ire of the ecowarriors should you drive it in town, which can be tire-some. Is the Q7 worth it?

The desperate protests in the office when we were "invited" to give our car back to the press office spoke volumes. Here's a vehicle that's big and clever without ever coming across as an obnoxious smart alec.

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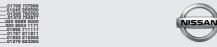
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blue, p/steering, air con,
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The past week in headlines

At-a-glance sport...

Tickets on sale for final

Sat, May 9 – Tickets went on sale for the Saints' European Challenge Cup final, the venue having been swapped to The Stoop.



Chris signs new deal

Tues, May 12 – Cobblers' 21-yearold keeper Chris Dunn said he was 'delighted' having signed a new two-year deal at the club.



Stevie G is top player Weds, May 13 -Liverpool star Steven Gerrard was voted the 2009 Footballer

Association.

of the Year by the Football Writers'

Shortage of runs is the major concern

DAVID Capel was left to rue a lack of runs and some costly mistakes as the Steel-backs fell out of the Friends Provident Trophy with a six-wicket defeat at Lan-

cashire Lightning.

But he also praised the efforts of his bowlers as they came within 15 balls of defending 211.

"Until about 12 overs to go, we did pretty well," he said. "But the fact is we didn't have enough runs to play with and that's hap-pening too often in this competition.

"Too regularly we are finding ourselves in situations like this. Guys like David Lucas and Lee Daggett, who I've been really pleased with, scrambled around to get us 30 runs at the end and they did really well. But we shouldn't be finding our-

selves in that position.
"We've got to be getting into the last 10 overs with wickets in hand and looking to post a good total because every time we don't do that, it's putting too much onus on the bowling and fielding.

"With those extra runs in this game, those 30 or even 25 runs, it would have made

such a difference.
"Lancashire would have had to take a few more risks and we would have put the pressure on them and make them work a lot harder for their runs.

"That's where the winning part of the game is, by scoring those extra runs and we recognise that."

Steelbacks made 211-9, with Nicky Boje (50) leading a recovery after struggling at 37-3 at one stage. But Lancashire always looked likely to catch the total, and made 213-4 (Ashwell Prince 78).

Young Springbok signs on for Saints

DELIGHTED Saints reckon they have captured one of the rising stars of South African rugby after sealing the signing of Brian Mujati.

The 24-year-old tighthead prop has agreed to join Northampton on a two-year deal after taking the interna-tional scene by storm last year.

In only his second season of Super 14 rugby with the Stormers, Mujati was called up to the South African side and has already won 12 caps. As well as providing cover for Euan

Murray when the prop is on international duty, Mujati will give the Scot tough competition for a starting place.
"Brian is one of the rising stars of

South African rugby and I am delighted that he is coming to the Saints," said director of rugby Jim Mallinder.

"Although he is still relatively young for a prop he has amassed a great deal of experience in the Super 14 and with the Springboks, and he can play on both sides of the scrum.

"You cannot have too much strength

in depth in the front row and $\mbox{\sc Brian}$ will add to our resources in that area considerably. Having quality players increases the pressure on everyone to perform, which can only be good for the Saints squad as we look to improve further.'

Over the past 12 months Mujati, who stands at 5ft 11in and weighs 18st 2lbs, has become a regular in the Springboks' matchday squads. He was called into the national

squad by Peter de Villiers ahead of

last year's Test series against Wales. After making his debut against the then-Six Nations champions in Bloemfontein, Mujati made 11 more appearances during the rest of 2008, including in the Tri Nations and Autumn

International series in the UK.

Born in Zimbabwe and educated at Peterhouse School, Mujati began his rugby career in Johannesburg, where he worked his way through the Lions' youth system, culminating in maiden appearances in the Currie Cup and

He moved to Cape Town-based Stormers in 2008.



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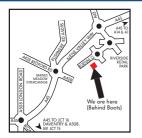
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